Appendix I: Acronyms and Terms

(also see Dictionary of Geological Terms)

Achondrite	Stony meteorite, lacking chondules. Igneous origin. Relatively rare.
ANSMET	Antarctic Search for Meteorties, funded by U. S. National Science Foundation; led by William Cassidy and Ralph Harvey.
AMN	Antarctic Meteorite Newsletter (issued by JSC, SN2)
"blue ice"	Locations in Antarctic where samples were recovered (page v)
ALHA	Allan Hills
EETA	Elephant Moraine
LEW	Lewis Cliffs
QUE	Queen Alexander Range
Yamato	Yamato mountains
BM(NH)	British Museum of Natural History, now The Natural History Museum, London.
Cosmogenic Isotopes	Isotopes produced by interaction of high-energy cosmic-rays with elements in sample.
DML	Dark mottled lithology of Zagami meteorite.
DN	Olivine-rich lithology of Zagami, obtained from David New.
druse	A crust or coating of small crystals in a crack or void (see Martinez and Gooding, 1986 for a description of "white-druse").
Educational Thin Section Set	JSC, BM(NH) and NIPR all have sets of thin sections of meteorites, with educational pamplets, for use by educational institutions.
exposure age	The time interval a small body (~1m) spends in space as measured by radionuclides generated by high energy cosmic rays.
genealogy diagram	Diagram that shows the relationship of rock splitting and allocations. The number before the comma is called the generic sample and the number after the comma is the "daughter" split.
HED	Howardite, Eucrite, Diogenite. Large group of apparently related achondites.
Ga	1,000,000,000 years
GPa	Giga Pascals
isochron	A constant-time line on a diagram that compares ratios of radioactive isotopes to their stable daughter isotopes.

interstitial	Area between the other major mineral phases.
JSC	Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas 77058
Katabatic wind	The wind that blows off of the Antarctic continent.
lherzolite	Two pyroxene rock, plutonic.
Ma	1,000,000 years
Martian meteorite	A meteorite from Mars, a SNC meteorite.
MWG	Meteorite Working Group. U. S. advisory panell to ANSMET.
maskelynitization	Sock event that converts plagioclase into isotropic phase.
mesostasis	Fine-grained mineral mass found interstial to major minerals.
“mineral” separate	An attempt to obtain a concentration of one mineral phase after powdering the rock and using various mechanical means (*e.g.* heavy liquids for density difference).
nakhlites	Nakhla, Lafayette, Governador Valadares
NIPR	National Institute Polar Research, Japan
NZ	Normal, basaltic lithology of Zagami.
“orangette”	New term introduced in this document to distinguish unusual carbonate globules in ALH84001 (see page 98).
ophitic	Texture of basaltic rock where pyroxene completely encloses plagioclase and other phases.
PAHs	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Organic compounds made up of benzene rings linked together. Examples given in figure X-18.
pre-terrestrial	The history of the sample before entry into the Earth’s atmosphere - as judged by location with respect to fusion crust.
plateau age	The age obtained from the $^{39}Ar/^{40}Ar$ spectrum as function of release temperature.
“pockets” of glass	The small areas of glass found inside the meteorite specimen.
“pods” of glass	The small unusual glass areas in EETA79001. See figure IX-24.
poikilitic	Texture of igneous rock where small granular crystals are irregularly scattered without common orientation in a larger crystal of another mineral.
Radiogenic Isotopes	Naturally-occuring, radioactive isotopes such as K, Rb, U, Th, Sm that decay at a slow rate to another stable isotope and are used for geological age dating.
REE	Rare earth elements.

“rosette”	A symmetrical growth form, resembling a rose, assumed by an accretionary body. Term often used for barite concretions on Earth.
“salts”	Various non-silicate minerals, possibly residual to aqueous solution, found in cracks of Martian meteorites.
schlieren	Texture where glass, or mineral phases are drawn out in stringers.
SNC	Shergotty, Nakhla, Chassigny, a term used in publications before “Martian meteorites.”
SPB	Shergottite Parent Body = Mars
SN2	The mail code for the Planetary Materials Branch at JSC.
shergottites	Shergotty, Zagami, QUE88516, EETA79001
terrestrial age	Time interval that meteorite has spent on Earth.
USNM	United States National Museum, also called the Smithsonian Institution. Washington D.C. Specifically, the Department of Mineral Sciences is a great source of research samples.
Viking	Two highly-successful missions to the surface of Mars in 1976.
“whole-rock”	Term used for a small sample (50 mg-2 g) of a rock used to determine the chemical composition of the “whole” specimen. Generally selected to be representative of the “whole”, but, obviously, NOT the whole rock.
“Yowza-Yowza”	Term used by 1984 ANSMET team to describe something important. New geological term, not found in Dictionary.